Memorandum



Agenda Item No. 5(C)

Date:

April 2, 2013

To:

Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa

and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From:

Carlos A. Gimenez

County Mayor

Subject:

Class IV Permit Application by the National Park Service Requesting Authorization to

Fill 1.42 Acres of Wetlands to Provide Parking and Various Amenities for Visitors to

the Big Cypress National Preserve

Attached, please find for your consideration an application by the National Park Service for a Class IV permit. Also attached is the recommendation of the Director of the Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources and a proposed resolution approving the issuance of the Class IV permit.

Jack Osterholt, Deputy Mayor

Memorandum

- --- 1

MIAMIDADE

Date:

March 14, 2013

To:

Carlos A. Gimenez County Mayor

From:

Jack Osterholt Apeouty Mayor, Director

Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources

Subject:

Class IV Permit Application by the National Park Service Requesting Authorization to

Fill 1.42 Acres of Wetlands to Provide Parking and Various Amenities for Visitors to

the Big Cypress National Preserve

Recommendation

I have reviewed the attached application for a Class IV permit by the National Park Service. Based upon the applicable evaluation factors set forth in Section 24-48.3 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, I recommend that the Board of County Commissioners (Board) approve the issuance of a Class IV permit for the reasons set forth below.

Scope

The site is located south of US Highway 41 / Tamiami Trail and Loop Road, approximately 22 miles west of Krome Avenue in Commission District 11 (Commissioner Zapata).

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source

Not applicable

Track Record/Monitor

The Coastal and Wetlands Resources Section Manager, Lisa Spadafina, in the Department of Regulatory & Economic Resources, Division of Environmental Resources Management, will be responsible for monitoring the conditions of the permit.

Background

In the attached Class IV permit application, the National Park Service (NPS) requests authorization to fill 1.42 acres of wetlands not supporting halophytic (salt tolerant) vegetation at the Loop Road access point known as the Boundary Line trail head located south of US Highway 41 / Tamiami Trail, approximately 22 miles west of Krome Avenue.

This site is one of four recreational access points within the Big Cypress National Preserve (Preserve) that the NPS is currently improving in order to provide parking, restrooms and a launch ramp for the public. These access points, or trail heads, are used by the public to launch airboats into the Preserve. Currently, the NPS states that the access points do not offer sufficient area for parking, amenities or for the safe launching of airboats. Of the four access points where filling of wetlands is proposed will occur, only this site is located in Miami-Dade County.

This project is coming before the Board because Chapter 24-48 of the Code requires Board approval for the issuance of Class IV permits to dredge and fill more than one (1) acre of wetlands in areas designated as "Environmental Protection."

The wetlands proposed to be impacted within the project site are characterized as cypress

prairie, cypress strand and wet prairie. Cypress wetlands are dominant within approximately 1.19 acres of the proposed impact area. The remaining wetland area, approximately 0.23 acres, consists of cypress prairie and wet prairie.

Compensatory mitigation for the ecological impacts related to the loss of wetland functions will be accomplished by the restoration of a 2.10 acre fill pad known as the Golightly Fill Pad. The Golightly Fill Pad is proposed for wetlands restoration because this site is comprised of wetlands that function similarly to those in the impact area by providing water storage, treatment and habitat value in the East Collier basin. Located approximately four miles from the Boundary Line trail head in Monroe County, the Golightly Fill Pad is within the same drainage basin and is ecologically connected to the area of proposed wetlands filling.

The proposed project has been designed in accordance with all relevant Miami-Dade County Class IV permit criteria and is consistent with all other Miami-Dade County wetland protection provisions.

Please find attached a Project Report from the Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources, which sets forth in more detail the reasons this project is recommended for approval by the Coastal and Wetlands Resources Section pursuant to the applicable evaluation factors set forth in Section 24-48.3 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, Florida. The conditions, limitations, and restrictions set forth in the Project Report attached hereto are incorporated herein by reference hereto.

Attachments

Attachment A: Class IV Permit Application

Site Plans

Attachment B: Applicant's/Agent's Letter

Engineer's Certification Letter

Attachment C: Zoning Approval Letter

RER Water Control's Cut & Fill Approval

Attachment D: Project Report



TO:

Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa

and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE:

April 2, 2013

FROM:

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.

County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 5(C)

rieas	e note any nems enecked.
· ·	"3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
	6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
	4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
	Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
· 	Budget required
	Statement of fiscal impact required
	Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
	No committee review
	Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's, 3/5's, unanimous) to approve
	Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved	Mayor	Agenda Item No.	5(C)
Veto		4-2-13	
Override			

RESOLUTION NO.	
TELOUIS TOTAL	

RESOLUTION APPROVING Α CLASS IV PERMIT APPLICATION BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE REQUESTING AUTHORIZATION TO FILL 1.42 ACRES OF WETLANDS TO PROVIDE PARKING AND **VARIOUS** AMENITIES FOR VISITORS TO THE BIG CYPRESS PRESERVE LOCATED NATIONAL SOUTH OF HIGHWAY 41 / TAMIAMI TRAIL AND LOOP ROAD IN SECTION 19, TOWNSHIP 54 SOUTH, AND RANGE 35 EAST, FLORIDA

WHEREAS, this Board desires to accomplish the purposes outlined in the accompanying memorandum, a copy of which is incorporated herein by reference,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board having considered all the applicable factors contained within Section 24-48.3 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, hereby approves the application by the National Park Service for a Class IV permit requesting authorization to fill 1.42 acres of wetlands to provide parking and various amenities for visitors to the Big Cypress National Preserve within the project site located south of U.S. Highway 41 / Tamiami Trail and Loop Road in Section 19, Township 54S, and Range 35E, Miami-Dade County, subject to the conditions set forth in the memorandum from the Director of the Miami-Dade County Department Regulatory and Economic Resources, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof. The issuance of this approval does not relieve the applicant from obtaining all applicable Federal, State, and local permits.

Agenda Item No. 5(C) Page No. 2

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

> Rebeca Sosa, Chairwoman Lynda Bell, Vice Chair

Bruno A. Barreiro Jose "Pepe" Diaz Sally A. Heyman Jean Monestime

Esteban L. Bovo, Jr. Audrey M. Edmonson Barbara J. Jordan Dennis C. Moss

Sen. Javier D. Souto

Xavier L. Suarez

Juan C. Zapata

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 2nd day of April, 2013. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this

> MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA BY ITS BOARD OF **COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as to form and legal sufficiency.

Thomas H. Robertson

Board.

Attachment A

Class IV Permit Application Site Plans

Class IV Permit Application



Date:Received: PECEIVE BRIDEPARTN	ENTAL USE ONLY Updated 09/09		
Date Received:	Application Number:		
JAN 3 0 2013	CL1V-2012 - 00 47		
ALITA 0.5 TO 12			
DERM Wellands Resources Section	Application Fee:		
Natural Resources Regulation & Restoration Division (NRRRO) Application must be filled out in its entirety. Please indicate N/A f			
Application must be filled out in its entirety. Please indicate N/A	or non-applicable fields,		
1. Applicant Information:	2. Applicant's Authorized Permit Agent:		
Name: National Park Service/Pedro Ramos	Agent is allowed to process the application, furnish supplemental information relating to the application and bind the applicant to all requirements of the application. Name: AECOM Technical Services/Kelley Peterman		
Address: 33100 Tamiami Trail East			
Ochopee, FL Zip Code: 34141	Address: 150 N. Orange Ave. Suite 200		
Phone #: 239-695-1103 Fax#: 239-695-0416	Orlando, FL Zip Code: 32801		
Email: Pedro_Ramos@nps.gov	Phone #: 407-843-6552 Fax #: 407-839-1789		
* This should be the applicant's information for contact purposes.	Email: kelley.peterman@aecom.com		
3. Location where proposed activity exists or will occur (latitude and	l longitude are only necessary for properties without address or follo #):		
Folio #(s): 3045190000070, 3045190000018, 3045190000000, 3045190000000 La	ititude: Longitude:		
Folio #(s): 3045190000070, 3045190000018, 3045190000000, 30451900000000 La Street Address:S	ertion: 19 Township: 54S Pance: 35E		
in City or Town:	ear City or Town: Ochopee		
4. Describe the proposed activity (check all that apply):			
_	a/Dradeina (Coo Bou C)		
Row Crops	n/Dredging (See Box 6)		
= 2	ge Features Soil/Muck		
☐ Field Nursery - At Grade ☐ Rock N			
Field Nursery - Row and Furrow	■ Mari		
☐ Container Nursery	☐ Clay		
☐ Shade House Nursery	<u> </u>		
☐ Drainage Features	Stone		
Other:	☐ Concrete Rubble		
Other:			
	····		
Total Property size; 1.42 acres Wetla	nd acreage proposed to be impacted:1.42 acres		
Are you seeking an after-the-fact approval for any portion of the v	vork (ATF)? ☐ Yes ■No		
5. Proposed Use (check all that apply): 6. If the propose	d work relates to Excavation/Dredging as Indicated in Box 4		
above, provide i	to work relates to Excavation/Dredging as indicated in Box 4 the following information:		
☐Single Family ☐Commercial			
	e of excavation: acres		
Private Utility Proposed donth	of overwhich		
	of excavation:feet below ground surface		
☐ Agricultural Proposed acreag	e of backfill area: acres (if applicable)		
7 that all name to an exaltination at the bounds of the			
7. List all permits or certifications that have been applied for or ob	_		
Issuing Agency Type of Approval Identification	Number Application Date Approval Date		
SFWMD/ USACE ERP/IP PEND	ING [
·			

·				
8. Contractor Information (If known):				
Name:	License # (County/State):			
Address:	····	Zip Cod	de:	
Phone #: Fax #:	E-mail:			
9. IMPORTANT NOTICE TO APPLICANTS: considered complete. Your application Wapplication is completed below. You have this application. Application is hereby made for a Miami-Dade Completed.	The written consent of the prope /ILL NOT BE PROCESSED unless the the obligation to apprise the Depar	erty owner is required e Applicant and Owner tment of any changes	er Consent portion of the to information provided in	
 I am familiar with the information, data To the best of my knowledge and belle I will provide any additional information comply with the applicable State and and I am authorizing the permit agent listed relating to this application and bind the I agree to provide access and allow entire 	County water quality standards both did d in Section 2 of this application to proce a applicant to all requirements of this ap	n, and litted are true, complete le reasonable assurance t uring construction and al cess the application, furni application, and authorized representativ or permitted activities a	hat the proposed project wil ter the project is completed sh supplemental information es of Miami-Dade County fo and adherence to all permi	
conditions. A. IF APPLICANT IS AN INDIVIDUAL		R	ECEIVEL OCT 2 9 2012	
Signature of Applicant B. IF APPLICANT IS OTHER THAN AN IND (Examples: Corporation, Partnership, T		DEI Natural	RM Weilands Resources Secti Resources Regulation & Rest Division (NRRRD)	
	Federal Agency	Florida		
Print Name of Applicant (Enter the complete name a			Istration/Incorporation	
	a bond on behalf of the Applicant. (If a nal signatures are required, pursuant to ust attach additional signature pages, Pedro Ramos Print Authorized Representative's Nam	sked, you must provide po your governing documents Superintenden Title	oroof of such authority to ents, operating agreements, t, BICY Date	
Print Name of Applicant (Enter the complete name a	registered) Type (Corp, LLC, LLP, etc.)	State of Regis	tration/incorporation	
Print Name of Applicant (Enter the complete name a	s registered) Type (Corp, LLC, LLP, etc.)	State of Regis	tration/Incorporation	
Under the penalty of perjury, I certify that I have and if so required to authorize the issuance of a she because the issuance of a she Department). ***Please Note: If addition or other applicable agreements or Jaws, you must	a bond on behalf of the Applicant. (If a nal signatures are required, pursuant to	sked, you must provide p	proof of such authority to	
Signature of Authorized Representative	Print Authorized Representative's Nam	ne Title	Date	
Signature of Authorized Representative	Print Authorized Representative's Nan	ne Title	Date	

10. WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE PE	OPERTY OWNER FOR	THE PROPOS	ED WORK LO	CATION	
I/We are the fee simple owner(s) of the real property located at the Boundary Line Trail Head in Miami-Da				Miami-Dade	
County, Florida, otherwise Identified in the public records of Miami-Dade County as Folio No.3045190000070, 3045190000000, 3045190000000, 3045190000000, 3045190000000, 3045190000000, 3045190000000, 3045190000000, 3045190000000, 30451900000000, 30451900000000, 30451900000000, 30451900000000, 30451900000000, 304519000000000, 304519000000000, 3045190000000000, 304519000000000000, 30451900000000000000000000000000000000000					
am aware and familiar with the conte	ents of this application f	or a Mlami-Dad	e County Class	IV Permit to perform the	work on the subject
property, as described in Section 4 of	this application. I hereb	y consent to th	e work identifie	d in this Class IV Permit a	oplication.
A. IF THE OWNER IS AN INDIVID	UAL				
Signature of Owner	Print Ow	ner's Name		Date	
Signature of Owner	Print Ow	ner's Name		Date	
B. IF THE OWNER IS OTHER THA (Examples: Corporation, Partners		, LLC, LLP, etc.)		·	
Pedro Ramos		Federal Ag		Florida	
Print Name of Applicant (Enter the complete 33100 Tamiami Trail East/ Och	- '	Type (Corp, LLC	, LLP, etc.)	State of Registration	/Incorporation
Address of Owner	opee, FL, 34141				
Under the penalty of perjury, I certify so required to authorize the issuance Department/. ***Please Note: If adother applicable agreements or laws.	of a bond on behalf of ditional signatures are	the Owner. (If a <u>required, pursu</u>	sked, you must ant to your gov	provide proof of such au	thority to the
	Pedro Ramos		Superinte	endent, BICY	
Signature of Authorized Representative	Print Authorized Repres	entative's Name	Title		Date
Signature of Authorized Representative	Print Authorized Repres	entative's Name	Title		Date

Please Review Above

Appropriate signature(s) must be included in:

Box 9: either A, B or C

<u>AND</u>

Box 10: either A or B

RECEIVED

177 29 2012

DERM Welland, R. sources Scotlon Natural Resources Regulation & Restoration Division (NRRRD)

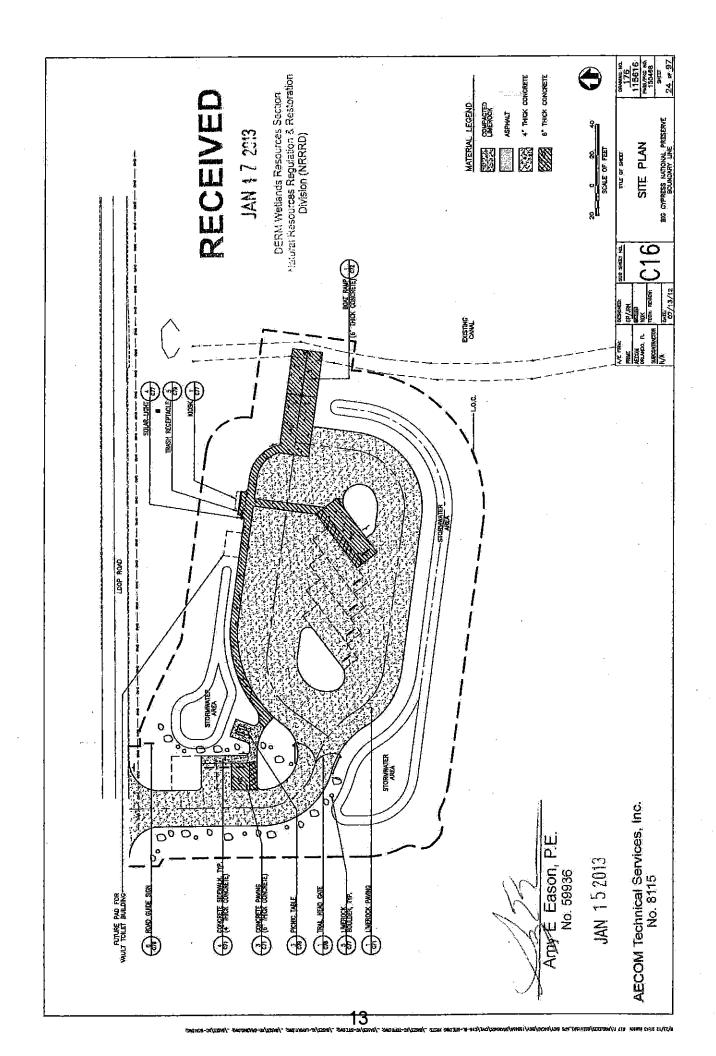
Class IV Permit Application Additional Signatures Page

(Please attach to Class IV permit application)

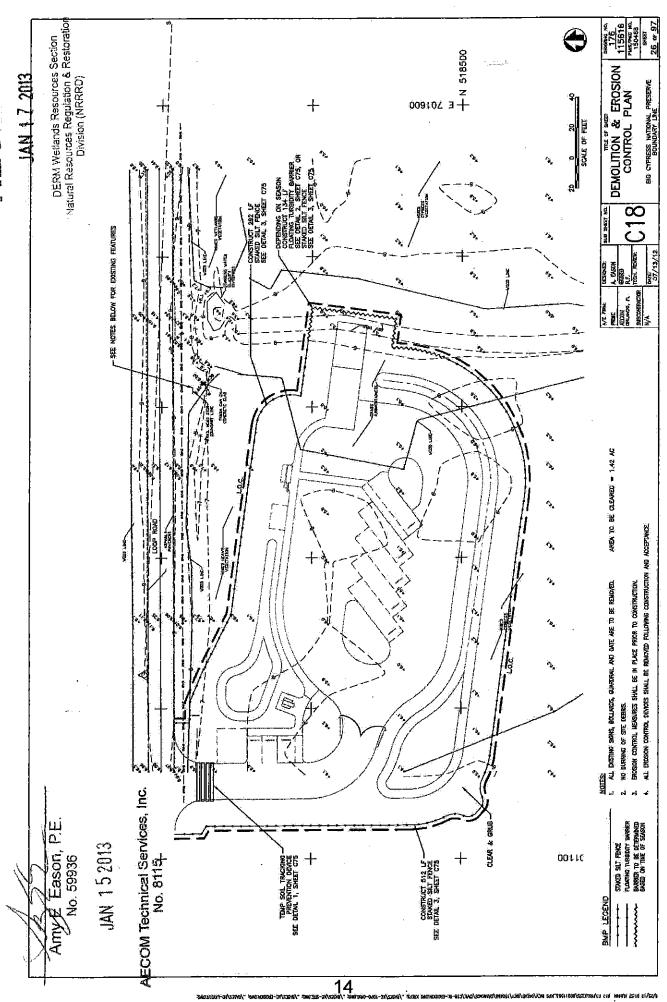
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Applicant Name:			
Owner Name:			
Project Location:			
Additional signatures for:	☐ Applicant ☐ Owner		
1. IF THE APPLICANT/OWNER IS A	N INDIVIDUAL	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Signature of Applicant/Owner	Prin	t Name of Applicant/Owner	Date
Signature of Applicant/Owner	Prin	t Name of Applicant/Owner	Date
2. IF THE APPLICANT/OWNER IS O (Examples: Corporation, Partner		R NATURAL PERSON	
Print Name of Applicant/Owner (Enter th	ne complete name as registered)	Type (Corp, LLC, LLP, etc.)	State of Registration/Incorporation
	ant/Owner, and if so required it provide proof of such autho	I to authorize the issuance of rity to the Department <i>)</i> . ***I	
Signature	Print Name	Title	RECEIVED
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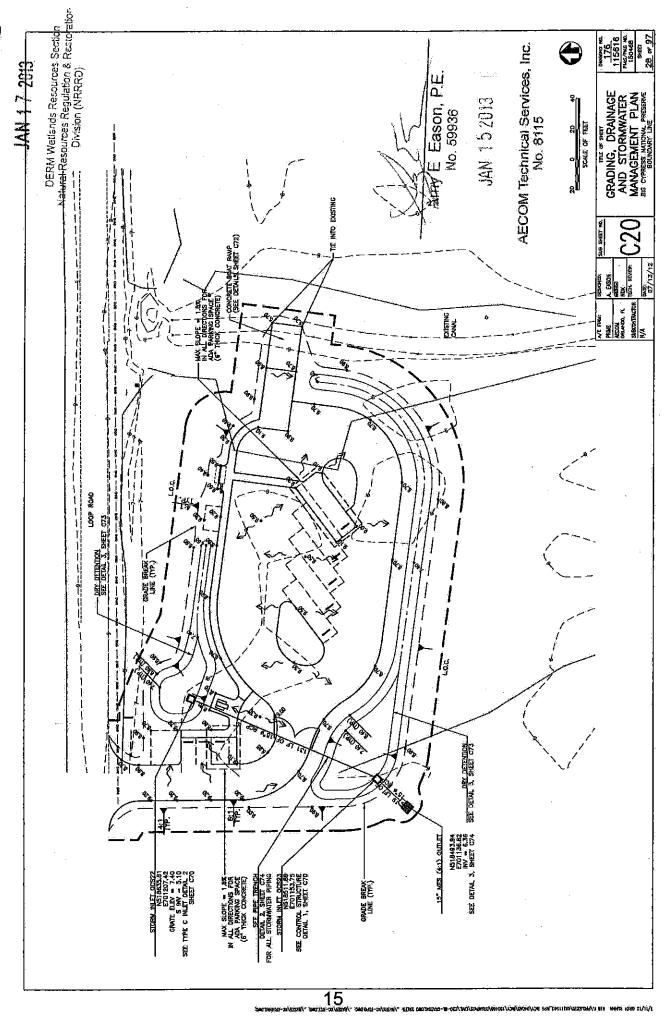
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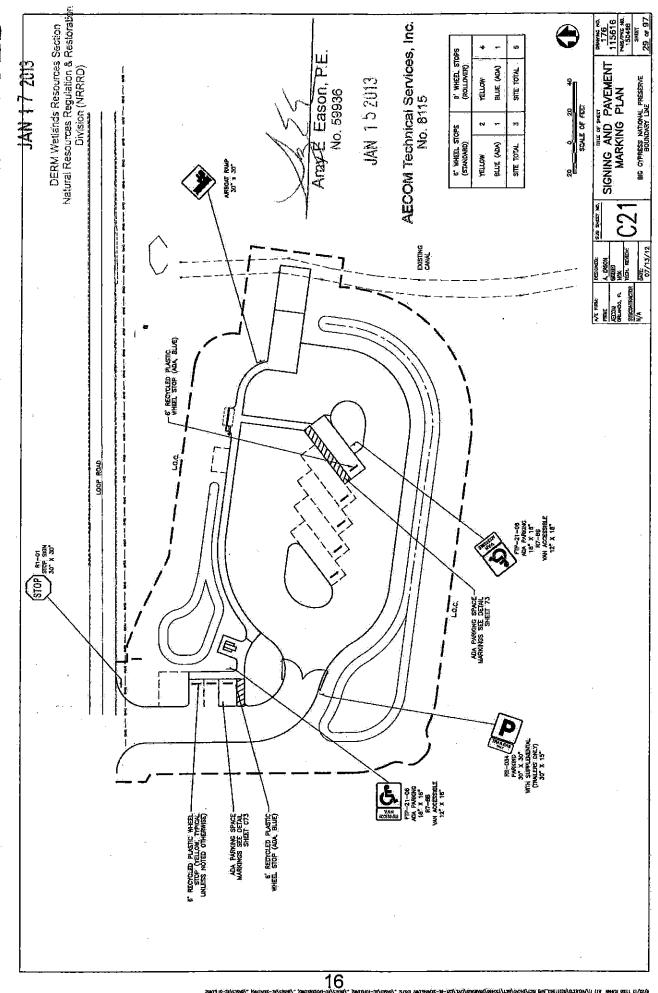
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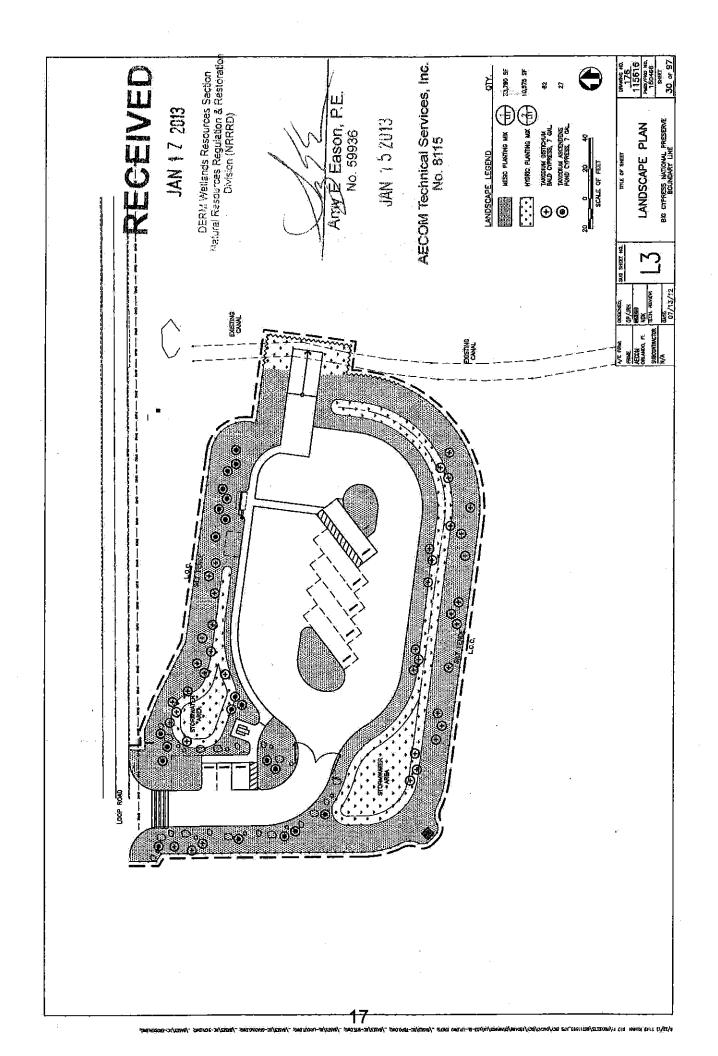


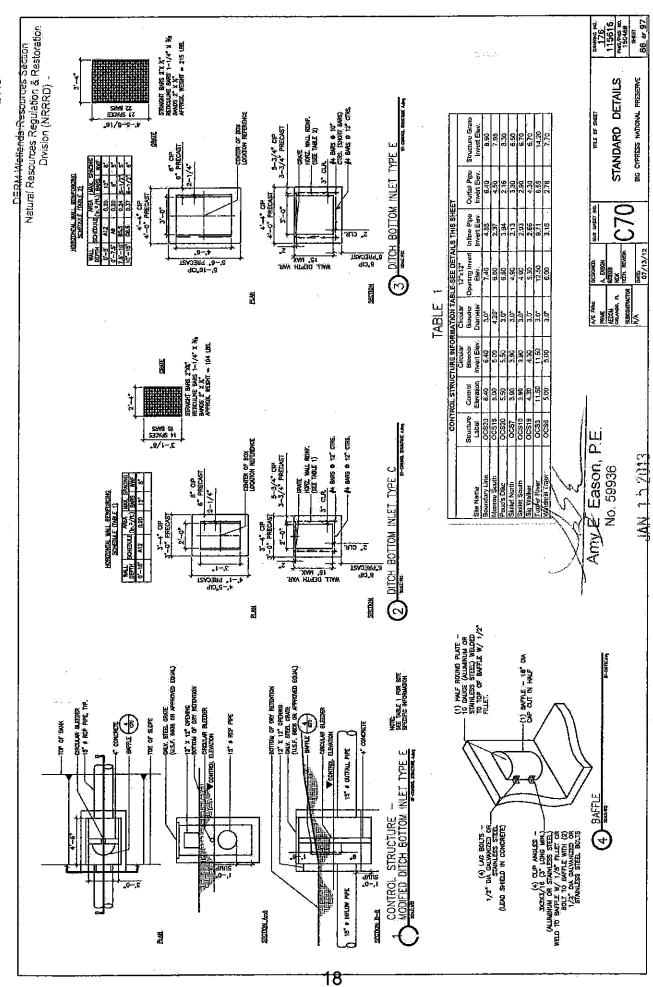
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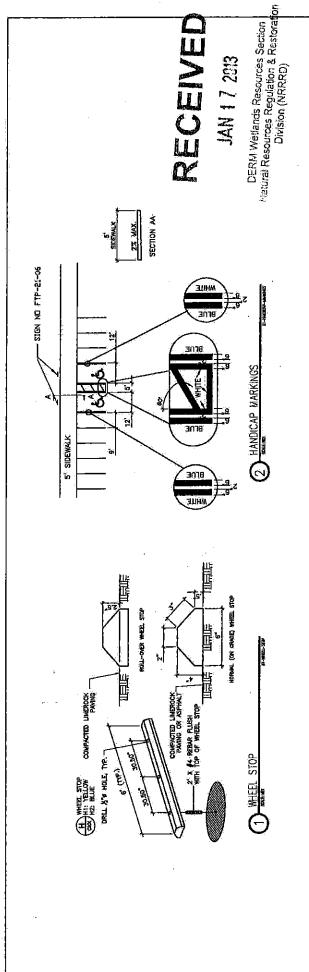




TABLE 2

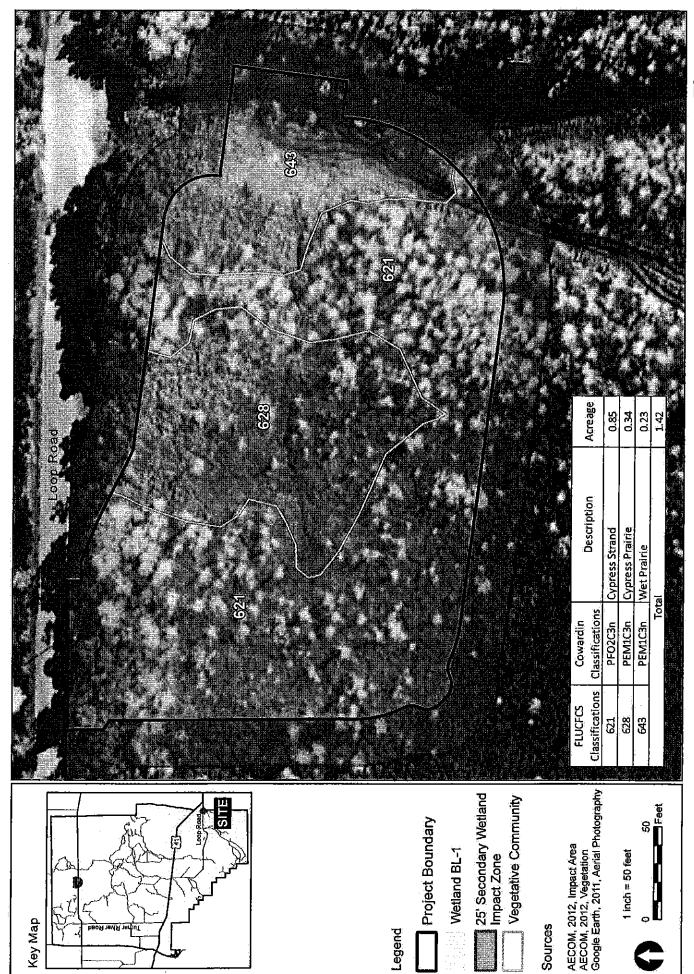
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AECOM Technical Services, Inc. No. 8115 JAN 152013

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	note: See table 2. for site Specific information	S DRY DETENTION

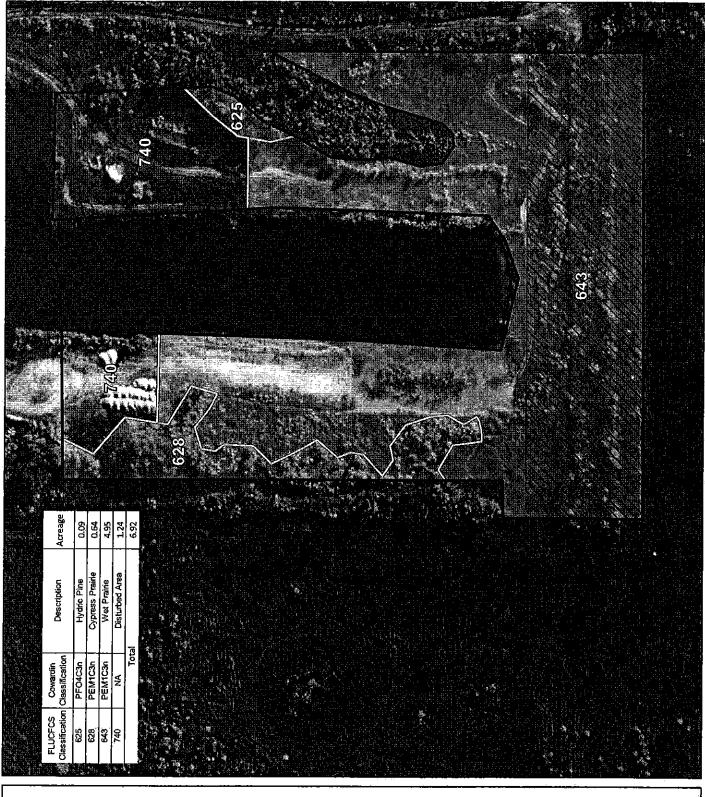
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CONTROL ELE (SEE TABLE)	NOTE: SEC. 74 SPECIFI	

115616 115616 115618 15048 SEET 89 or 97



Legend

Sources



Proposed Mitigation Area 2.10 acres Vegetative Community Project Boundary Wetland GFP-1 Legend

Кеу Мар

Sources

AECOM, 2012, Mitigation Area AECOM, 2012, Vegetation Bing ArcGIS Online, 2011, Aerial Photograph 1 inch = 125 feet



Tariba i

Attachment B

Applicant's/Agent's Letter Engineer's Certification Letter



AECOM 3550 S.W. Corporate Parkway Palm City, Florida 34990 www.aecom.com 772 286 3883 tel 772 286 3925 fax

ENGINEER LETTER OF CERTIFICATION

Miami-Dade County Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources Coastal and Wetlands Resources Section 701 NW 1st Court, Suite 600 Miami, Florida 33136

RE: Class IV Short/Standard Form Permit Application Number CLIV2012-0047

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This letter will certify that I am an engineer registered/licensed in the State of Florida, qualified by education and experience in the area of construction, and that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the proposed work does not violate any laws of the State of Florida or any provision of the Code of Miami Dade County which may be applicable, that diligence and recognized standard practices of the engineering profession have been exercised in the engineer's design process for the proposed work, and in my opinion based upon my knowledge and belief, the following will not occur:

- a. Harmful obstruction or undesirable alteration of the natural flow of the water within the area of the proposed work.
- b. Harmful or Increased erosion, shoaling of channels or stagnant areas of water. (Not applicable to class IV permits)
- c. Material injury to adjacent property.
- d. Adverse environmental impacts from changes in water quality or quantity. (Applicable to class IV permits only)

Further, I have been retained by the applicant to provide inspections throughout the construction period and to prepare a set of reproducible record prints of drawings showing changes made during the construction process based upon the marked-up prints, drawings, and other data furnished by the contractor to me.

Sincerely,

Amy E 23son, P.E. (#59936)

11-20-17

PERMIT APPLICANT/ AUTHORIZED AGENT STATEMENT

Date: October 5, 2012

Miami Dade County Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources Coastal and Wetlands Resources Section 701 NW 1st Court Miami FL, 33136

Re: Class IV Standard Form Permit Application Number

By the attached Class IV Standard Form permit application with supporting documents, I, Kelley Peterman, am the Permit Applicant/Applicant's Authorized Permit Agent (circle one) and hereby request permission to perform the work associated with Class IV permit application ______. I understand that a Miami-Dade County Class IV Standard Form Permit is required to perform this work.

If approval is granted for the proposed work by the Board of County Commissioners, complete and detailed plans and calculations of the proposed work shall be prepared by an engineer registered/licensed in the State of Florida in accordance with the minimum requirements of Chapter 24 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, Florida. Said plans and calculations shall be subject to the review and approval of the Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources. The permit applicant will secure the services of an engineer registered/licensed in the State of Florida to conduct inspections throughout the construction period, and said engineer shall prepare all required drawings of record.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelley Peterman

Applicant's Authorized Permit Agent

Attachment C

Zoning Approval Letter RER Water Control's Cut & Fill Approval



T. --- 2

Date:

November 2, 2012

To:

Johanna Velasquez, Biologist II

Environmental Resources Management Division

Coastal and Wetland Resources Section

Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources

From:

Eric Silva, AICP, Assistant Director 🗲

Development Services Division

Regulatory and Economic Resources Department

Subject:

Class CLIV Permit Application CLIV 20120047

Property at the Boundary Line Trail head South of Loop Road

The proposed usage of the property upon which the proposed work would occur does not violate any zoning law applicable to the area of the proposed work.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Fred Endara at extension (305) 375-3866,

ES/FE



DERM Wetlands Resources Section Natural Resources Regulation & Restoration Division (NRRRD)

Voight, Paul (RER)

Subject:

FW: Response Wetland determination CLIV-20120047

From: De Torres, Mayra (RER)

Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 11:08 AM

To: Spinelli, Michael (RER)

Cc: Velasquez, Johanna (RER); Molina, Maria, P.E. (RER)

Subject: FW: Response Wetland determination CLIV-20120047

Good Morning,

See below the Water Control Section comment for the proposed Class IV-20120047.

If you have any question, please contact Maria Molina or myself.

Mayra De Torres, Engineer I

Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources

Environmental Resources Management
701:NW 1st Court, 6th Floor, Miami, Florida 33136
(305):372-6638 (305) 372-6489 fax
http://www.miamidade.gov/economy
#Delivering Excellence Every Day"

From: Molina, Maria, P.E. (RER)

Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 10:15 AM

To: De Torres, Mayra (RER)

Subject: RE: Response Wetland determination CLIV-20120047

Minor changes

Bullia -

The Water Control has reviewed the proposed Class IV permit application entitled "ORV Trailheads, Big Cypress National Preserve" and offer the following comment:

"The proposed roadway within the jurisdiction of Miami-Dade County will require water quality treatment for the 5-year, 1-day storm event, prior to discharge into the wetland area, and provide fill encroachment criteria by setting aside unfilled retention area sufficient to retain the 100-year, 3-day storm event, to provide flood protection to calculated base flood elevation."

Applicant is advised if the proposed outfall will discharge into any water body within the Miami-Dade County limit, a Class II permit is required.

Please let me know.

Mayra De Torres, Engineer I
Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources
Environmental Resources Management
701 NW 1st Court, 6th Floor, Miami, Florida 33136
(305) 372-6638 (305) 372-6489 fax
http://www.miamidade.gov/economy
"Delivering Excellence Every Day"

Attachment D

Project Report

PROJECT REPORT

-

CLASS IV PERMIT APPLICATION NO. CLIV2012-0047

Class IV Permit Application by the National Park Service Requesting Authorization to Fill 1.42 Acres of Wetlands for Parking and Various Amenities for Visitors to the Big Cypress National Preserve

January 22nd, 2013

Staff's recommendation of approval for the above-referenced project is based upon the applicable evaluation factors set forth in Section 24-48.3, Code of Miami-Dade County. The following is a summary evaluation of the proposed project with respect to each applicable evaluation factor:

- 1. <u>Potential Adverse Environmental Impact</u> The proposed project will result in an adverse environmental impact to 1.42 acres of wetlands. However, the mitigation, as set forth in Number 14 below, will compensate for the loss of wetland values associated with the proposed project.
- 2. <u>Potential Cumulative Adverse Environmental Impact</u> —The proposed project will result in minimal cumulative adverse environmental impacts. However, the mitigation, as set forth in Number 14 below, will compensate for the loss of wetland values associated with the proposed project.
- 3. <u>Hydrology</u> The proposed project, as designed, is not reasonably expected to adversely affect surface water drainage or retention of storm water.
- 4. <u>Water Quality</u> The proposed project, as designed, is not reasonably expected to adversely affect applicable Miami-Dade County water quality standards.
- 5. Wellfields The proposed project is not located within a Wellfield Protection Area.
- 6. Water Supply The proposed project is not reasonably expected to adversely affect the water supply.
- 7. Aquifer Recharge The proposed project is not reasonably expected to adversely affect aquifer recharge.
- 8. <u>Aesthetics</u> The proposed project has been designed to provide the public a safe place to launch recreational vehicles into the Preserve and to provide safe parking and other amenities off of Loop Road while the public uses the Preserve for recreational purposes.
- 9. Navigation Not applicable.
- 10. Public Health The proposed project is not reasonably expected to adversely affect the public health.
- 11. Historic Values The proposed project is not reasonably expected to adversely affect historic values.
- 12. <u>Archaeological Values</u> There is no known archaeological site located within the boundaries of this application.
- 13. Air Quality The proposed project is not reasonably expected to adversely affect air quality.
- 14. Marine and Wildlife Habitats The proposed project seeks approval for impacts from the proposed filling of 1.42 acres of wetlands. The wetlands that will be impacted within the project site are historically characterized as cypress strand and wet prairie. Cypress wetlands are the dominant cover type within the trail head. For this project, 0.85 acres of Cypress Strand, 0.34 acres of Cypress Prairie and 0.23 acres of Wet Prairie will be impacted. Compensatory mitigation for the ecological impacts related to the loss of these wetland functions will be accomplished by the restoration of a 2.10-acre fill pad located four miles from the Boundary Line trail head in Monroe County and known as the Golightly Fill Pad. In addition, the NPS has agreed to follow the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Standard Protection Measures of the Eastern Indigo Snake (FWS 2004) during construction and purchase off-site mitigation credits to compensate for impacts to habitat occupied by the wood stork and Florida panther. Specifically, the NPS is purchasing 71.43 Panther Habitat Units with their associated Wood Stork component from the Florida Panther Conservation, II Bank located in Monroe County for the improvements to all four recreational access points.
- 15. Wetland Soils Suitable for Habitat The proposed project will result in the permanent removal of wetland soils. However, the mitigation, as set forth in Number 14, has resulted in the creation of wetlands by removing a fill pad, thereby promoting re-vegetation with native wetland plant species and soil-vegetative interactions.

- 16. <u>Floral Values</u> The proposed project will impact herbaceous wetlands. However, the mitigation, as set forth in Number 14 above, will provide for the restoration and preservation of native wetland vegetation appropriate for promoting the natural ecosystem.
- 17. <u>Faunal Values</u> The proposed project will disturb native wildlife habitat. However, the mitigation, as set forth in Number 14 above, will provide for high quality habitat for native fauna.
- 18. Rare, Threatened and/or Endangered Species Impacts to habitat suitable for the federally listed Florida panther, wood stork and eastern indigo snake will occur as a result of the proposed improvements. To minimize adverse effects to these species, NPS has agreed to follow The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Standard Protection Measures for the Eastern Indigo Snake (FWS 2004) during construction and purchase off-site mitigation credits to compensate for impacts to habitat occupied by the wood stork and the Florida panther.
- 19. <u>Natural Flood Damage Protection</u> The water management features of the project have been reviewed by RER's Water Control Section and are in compliance with RER's criteria for development in this area. (See attachment C).
- 20. Wetland Values The proposed project seeks approval to fill 1.42 acres of wetlands. The wetlands proposed to be impacted within the project site are characterized as cypress prairie, cypress strand and wet prairie. Cypress wetlands are the dominant cover type within the trail head, approximately 1.19 acres. The remaining wetland area, approximately 0.23 acres, consists of cypress prairie and wet prairie. The mitigation set forth in Number 14 above will compensate for the loss of wetland values associated with the proposed project.
- 21. <u>Land Use Classification</u> —The Planning and Zoning Department for Miami-Dade County has determined that the proposed usage does not violate any zoning law applicable to the area of the proposed work. (See Attachment C)
- 22. Recreation The proposed project does not conflict with the recreation elements of the Miami-Dade County Comprehensive Development Master Plan and/or the Biscayne Bay Management Plan.
- 23. Other Environmental Values Affecting the Public Interest There are no other known environmental factors that will affect the public interest.
- 24. Standard Construction Procedures and Practices and Design and Performance Standards In the opinion of RER, the proposed project complies with the standard construction procedures and practices and design and performance standards of the applicable portions of the following:
 - a. Miami-Dade County Public Works Manual
 - b. Chapter 33B of the Code of Miami-Dade County
- 25. <u>Comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (CEIS)</u> In the opinion of the Director, the proposed mitigation plan will compensate for the loss of wetland values associated with the proposed project. As such, a CEIS was not required by RER to evaluate the proposed project.
- 26. <u>Conformance with All Applicable Federal and State Laws and Regulations</u> In the opinion of RER, the proposed project is in conformance with the following applicable State, Federal and local laws and regulations:
 - a. United States Clean Water Act (US Army Corps of Engineers and USEPA)
 - b. Federal Endangered Species Act (US Fish & Wildlife Service)
 - c. Florida Department of Environmental Protection Regulations
 - d. Chapter 24 of the Code of Miami-Dade County
 - e. Rules of the South Florida Water Management District
 - f. Basis of Review for Surface Water Management Permit Applications Within the South Florida Water Management District

27. Conformance with the Miami-Dade County Comprehensive Development Master Plan (CDMP) – In the opinion of RER, the proposed land use is consistent with the CDMP. Specifically, the proposed project complies with the following CDMP Elements and Policies:

LAND USE ELEMENT:

- Objective 1 Growth management The proposed project is generally consistent with the goals, objectives and policies contained in the Conservation, Aquifer Recharge and Drainage Element.
- Objective 3/Policies 3B, 3C Protection of natural resources and systems The proposed project is compatible with surrounding land uses and it is consistent with all applicable environmental regulations, as well as all other elements of the CDMP. In addition, the project is in compliance with rules of the Florida Administrative Code which governs the land use in the Big Cypress area where this project will occur.

CONSERVATION, AQUIFER RECHARGE AND DRAINAGE ELEMENT:

- Objective 2/Policy 2A Protection of ground and surface water resources The proposed project adheres to all relevant storm water management criteria.
- Objective 3/Policies 3A, 3B, 3D Wellfield protection areas The proposed project is not located within a Wellfield protection area.
- Objective 3/Policy 3E Limestone mining within the area bounded by the Florida Turnpike, the Miami-Dade/Broward Levee, NW 12 Street and Okeechobee Road The proposed project is not located within the above referenced area.
- Objective 4/Policies 4A, 4B, 4C Water storage, aquifer recharge potential and maintenance of natural surface water drainage The proposed project is not reasonably expected to adversely affect water storage, aquifer recharge potential, or natural surface water drainage.
- Objective 5/Policies 5A, 5B, 5F Flood protection and cut and fill criteria The water management features of the proposed project have been reviewed by RER's Water Control Section and are in compliance with RER's criteria for development in this area.
- Objective 6/Policy 6A Areas of highest suitability for mineral extraction The proposed project is not located in an area proposed or suitable for mineral extraction.
- Objective 6/Policy 6B Guidelines for rock quarries for the re-establishment of native flora and fauna Not applicable.
- Objective 6/Policy 6D Suitable fill material for the support of development The proposed project will not cause premature urban encroachment. The proposed project must use suitable fill material in order to meet the requirements of Chapter 24 of the Code of Miami-Dade County.
- Objective 7/Policy 7A No net loss of high quality, relatively unstressed wetlands The wetlands impacted by this project are considered high quality. The loss of wetland values associated with the proposed project will be mitigated as set forth in Number 14 above.
- Objective 9/Policies 9A, 9B, 9C Protection of habitat critical to Federal or State-designated threatened or endangered species The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) indicated that for the American alligator (Alligator mississipiensis), American crocodile (Crocodylus acutus), and West Indian manatee (Trichechus manatus) there will be no negative effect. In adherence with the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the agency's determination is that impacts to habitat suitable for federally listed wood stork (Mycteria Americana), the east indigo snake (Drymarchon corais couperi) and the Florida panther (Puma concolor coryi) will occur as a result of the proposed improvements. To minimize adverse effects to these species, NPS has agreed to follow the FWS's Standard Protection Measure for the East Indigo Snake (FWS 2004) during construction and to purchase off-site mitigation credits to compensate for impacts to wood stork and Florida panther habitat.

- 28. Conformance with Chapter 33B, Code of Miami-Dade County (East Everglades Zoning Overlay Ordinance) The proposed project is not within the East Everglades Zoning overlay area.
- 29. Conformance with Miami-Dade County Ordinance 81-19 (Biscayne Bay Management Plan) The proposed project is not within the area of the Biscayne Bay Management Plan.
- 30. Conformance with Manatee Protection Plan Not applicable.
- 31. Consistency with Miami-Dade County Criteria for Lake Excavation Not applicable.
- 32. <u>Municipality Recommendation</u> Not Applicable.
- 33. Coastal Resources Management Line Not Applicable.
- 34. Maximum Protection of a Wetland's Hydrological and Biological Functions Through Adherence to the Following Fill Limitations:
 - i) Placement of the minimum fill necessary to provide for the land usage alternative which results in the least adverse environmental impact and the least cumulative adverse environmental impact — The proposed project uses the minimum amount of fill necessary to provide for the proposed land usage alternative.
 - ii) Placement of temporary fill pads and fill roads for the purpose of conducting rock mining Not applicable.

The proposed project was also evaluated for compliance with the minimum required standards contained in Section 24-48.3 (2), (3), and (4) of the Code of Miami-Dade County. The following is a summary of the proposed project's compliance with said standards:

- 24-48.3 (2) Dredging and/or Filling for Class I Permit Not applicable.
- 24-48.3 (3) Docks and Piers for Mooring Purposes Not applicable.
- <u>24-48.3 (4) Clean Fill in Wetlands</u> The proposed project involves the placement of clean fill material only as defined in Section 24-5 of the Code of Miami-Dade County.

24-48.3 (6) Basin Fill Criteria - Not applicable.

SUMMARY

BASED ON THE FOREGOING, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT A CLASS IV PERMIT BE

APPRØVED.

Lisa Spadafina, Welland Resources Section Manager

Natural Resources Regulation and Restoration Division

Johanna Velasquez, Biologist II

Natural Resources Regulation and Restoration Division